

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides a xylanase, or a modified xylanase enzyme comprising at least one substituted amino acid residue at a position selected from the group consisting of amino acid 11, 116, 118, 144 and 161, the position determined from sequence alignment of the modified xylanase with *Trichoderma reesei* xylanase II amino acid sequence. The xylanases described herein exhibit improved thermophilicity, alkalophilicity, expression efficiency, or a combination thereof, in comparison to a corresponding native xylanase.

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